

Catechist HANDOUT  
Week 4 – 10/17/2021  
Intro to Bible Study



CATECHIST NOTES

**OBJECTIVES**

- To learn what a Bible Study is and why we do them
- For teens to get a refresher on the Bible and what it contains
- To talk about why we study the Bible

**OVERVIEW**

1. 5:15-6:45pm Small Group lesson plan/dismissal

**LESSON COMPONENTS**

- A. Opening (15-20 minutes)
  1. Covenant Prayer and sharing
  2. Community Builder
- B. Bible Study (40-45 minutes)
  1. Reading of the passage
  2. Discussion of questions provided
  3. Close with a prayer
- C. Bible Scavenger Hunt

## **Catechist Background Material**

Read: **Who wrote the Bible and when was it assembled?**

If you went to a book signing at your local bookstore, you would probably see a line of people waiting to get the author's autograph along with personal inscription. Imagine going to a bookstore and getting your Bible signed by its authors. What would the scene look like? The Bible consists of 73 books, penned by 40 to 50 writers over about 1,700 years. It would take an hour just to collect all of those signatures. The reality would be that while the writers were responsible for putting pen to parchment, it is the Holy Spirit who inspired the words; God is the author of Scripture.

Some people have a difficult time with the idea that God is the ultimate author of the Bible. It's safer and more convenient to say that people were writing about God, rather than acknowledging the truth – the Bible is the Living Word of God (Heb 4:12). Scripture isn't people writing "their take" about God, but rather God breathing words through the pens of men. Did God utilize the different talents and gifts for writing, communication and storytelling of each author? Absolutely. He used their gifts the same way He still uses peoples' gifts in ministry every day.

The Bible is without error. It is the fullness of God's revelation. That does not mean we understand all of it. Over the centuries, the Holy Spirit continues to illuminate us with new depths of truth, deeper avenues into the heart of God through His Word. God is constantly revealing Himself to us in deeper ways. When people say that Scripture is the "fullness of revelation", it means that no other books or writings since the Bible can or would be held in the same esteem. The Bible was inspired in a unique way, at a unique time in God's plan of salvation and in history. No other work in the present or in the future, no matter how brilliant, will be held in the same esteem as the Gospels...they are that divine, that perfect.

The word "canon" means "measuring rod." Canon is the terms used to describe which Biblical books "measured up" and were included in what we now call the Holy Bible. We will discuss the canon in more detail in the next question.

While the Old Testament was already written, there were hundreds of written works to be considered when compiling the New Testament canon. Dozens of "gospels" began to make their way around, each with their own unique spin on the life of Christ...some accurate, most absolutely inauthentic.

There are a few important things to note here.

First, the New Testament was almost entirely oral tradition (shared through speech, not writing) in the years immediately following Jesus' death. You'll notice that the Church didn't come out of the gospels, the gospels came out of the Church.

## **CATECHIST NOTES**

This article will help to answer some big questions that teens may have about the Bible

Second, the writers of the New Testament belonged to the only Church Christ founded (they were Catholic) and they believed in the True Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, including St. Paul (1 Cor 10:16-31) who wasn't even at the Last Supper but who was taught about the Tradition of the Sacraments through oral tradition.

Lastly, it was the universal (catholic) Christian Church who finally put the Scriptures together in the form you know today. It took years to formalize the full canon of Scripture. Travel was difficult back then, communication was slow, transcription was costly, Christianity was deadly and the Church was exploding in growth. It took many years of prayer, conversation, discernment and debate by Bishops, scholars and leaders to prayerfully determine (through the guidance of the Author, the Holy Spirit) which Biblical books were truly inspired. That process of prayer, guided by the Spirit, gave us the commonly held canon.

Any non-canonical or heretical books were disregarded, for the most part, over time. Finally, at the Councils of Rome (382 A.D.), Hippo (393 A.D.) and Carthage (397 A.D.) the list of inspired books was set. It's the same list you hold in your hands (when you hold a Catholic Bible, that is) today. The Council of Trent (1545-1563) promulgated the canon for us, but the canon was commonly held for more than 1,000 years before that.

And it may help to take some time to read through the following Scripture verses and paragraphs from the Catechism:

Mk 13:31, 1 Cor. 11:2, Acts 20:35, John 21:24-25, Luke 1:1-4, 1 Tim. 3:15, 2 Thess. 2:15, 3:6; 2 Tim. 2:2, Rom. 10:17, 1 Pet 1:25, CCC 78-97, 120-138, 106-107

## **A. Opening**

### **1. Covenant Prayer**

- a. Review the Bible verse you chose as your Covenant prayer
- b. Talk about if you're keeping up with the Covenant
- c. Pray together using the words in the Covenant

### **2. Community Builders**

- High/Low/Ha
  - High- Best part of your week
  - Low- A bad part of your week
  - Ha- A funny moment in your week

## **CATECHIST NOTES**

## B. Bible Study

### 1. What is a Bible study?

- Bible study is the study of the Bible by ordinary people as a personal religious or spiritual practice.
- The more we can understand the inspired words of the Bible, the more we can understand the beliefs, celebrations, and rituals of our faith. Simply reading the Bible can be confusing, so breaking it all down and digging in can be helpful.

### 2. Why is 8<sup>th</sup> grade doing a Bible study?

- To dive deeper into the Bible and learn more about ourselves and our faith through scripture.

### 3. What's in the Bible again?

- **The Christian Bible is a sacred text**
  - Religious **texts**, also known as scripture, scriptures, holy writ, or holy books, are the **texts** which various religious traditions consider to be **sacred**, or central to their religious tradition. Many religions and spiritual movements believe that their **sacred texts** are divinely or supernaturally revealed or inspired.
- **The Catholic Christian Bible is a compilation of:**
  - The Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) - composed of the *Pentateuch* (referred to as the *Torah* or *The Law*), the *Prophets* and *the Writings* (referred today as the Wisdom Literature)
  - The *deuterocanonical* books –seven books in the Old Testament that were not in the Jewish canon.
  - Christian Scriptures (New Testament) – composed of four gospels, the Acts of the Apostles and a collection of Pastoral Epistles or letters.
- **Diving into their Bible**
  - As a group, read pages 1716-1723. Read this slowly, highlighting and circling anything that stands out along the way.
  - Questions after:
    - What do you think about what we read? Is this how you view the Bible?
    - How do Catholics approach the Bible? How is this different than other denominations?

## CATECHIST NOTES

### Optional Activity

Discuss what the Bible means to you as an adult. How did you start reading the Bible? How do you interact with God's word?

This is a great time for Peer Ministers to share a story or two about their own experiences. Try to start a discussion about how teens view the Bible and what they think they can get out of it. Reinforce that the Bible is one of two ways that we can hear God's revelations and that the Bible is one of the central ways that we can know God.

## CATECHIST NOTES

### 4. Why should we study the Bible?

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
  - What is this passage telling us about the Bible? Why is it written? What does it mean for us?
  - What do each of the words “teaching, refutation, correction, and training in righteousness” mean? How do these relate to the life of teens?
  - Where does this passage say that scripture comes from? Do you agree with that? Why or why not?

### 5. What everyone thinks

- The Bible as a whole
  - What do you think about the Bible?
  - What does the Bible mean in your life?
  - Do you need the Bible?
  - Is there any Bible verse that stands out in your life? Why was this one impactful for you?
- Bible Study
  - What are you looking forward to about a Bible study? What are you nervous or apprehensive about?
  - What does everyone think about a Bible study?
  - Can we be positive about it?
  - What do you expect to happen in the Bible study?

## C. Bible Scavenger Hunt

- a. What and why
  - This is a fun way to get the teens to open up their Bibles and explore what’s there
  - You can make this a competition or complete it as a class
- b. Answers
  1. New American Bible (Revised Edition)
  2. 81
  3. First: Genesis, Last: Revelation
  4. Malachi, Matthew
  5. Mark
  6. 21
  7. Mt, Mk, Lk, Jn
  8. Jesus’ genealogy
  9. John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus
  10. 27
  11. The birth of John the Baptist
  12. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
  13. Luke
  14. Judges
  15. Colossians

To make it a competition, you can break the teens into teams of 3-4 or have teens work on their own.

Time it, go for completion, or go for accuracy!

**LESSON PREPARATION NOTES:**

Is there something I want to pick up or go over from last week's class?

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My community building activity this week will be

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What parts of the lesson will the Peer Ministers lead/facilitate?

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Do I need anything from the Faith Office prior to class?

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Other

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**Things I will need for class this week:**

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**The Key Ideas/Objectives for this week are**

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**Things I need to consult Teen Faith about**

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